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GENEVA CONFERENCE BULLETIN - VII

Soviet spokesman says Communists will propose elections in all three Associated States: International News Service correspondent Kingsbury Smith informed the American delegations on 4 May that Popov, editor of the Soviet-English-language paper News, had told him that the Communists would not propose partition or a coalition government but instead would ask for supervised nationwide elections in the three Associated States. He said the Communists realized that they would probably lose in Laos and Cambodia but thought they would win 60 percent of the vote in Vietnam.

In reply to Smith's inquiry whether UN supervision was contemplated, Popov said the Communists preferred to have "neutral supervision."

Communist journalists on two previous occasions have stated that the Communists would propose elections in Indochina. Any election proposal would probably be aimed primarily at embarrassing the French, Vietnamese and Western delegations. It is likely that Bloc delegates will demand that negotiations for an Indochina settlement cover Laos and Cambodia as well as Vietnam. On his arrival in Geneva, the Viet Minh foreign minister stated that the conference must re-establish peace "on the basis of the national rights of the peoples of Vietnam, Khmer and Pathet Lao."

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State Dept. review completed

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North Korean radio calls for easing economic barriers in Korea: Pyongyang radio's 3 May broadcast stated "there is no doubt that unnatural, man-made obstacles can easily be eliminated with great beneficial effects to the peoples of both North and South Korea. This suggests that the Communists will propose either at Geneva or subsequently the establishment of border commissions for economic intercourse across the present dividing line. The broadcast repeats a similar proposal made by a Soviet diplomat prior to the Geneva conference.

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